

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
Plaintiff,) CASE NO. 2:20-cv-1119-BJR
v.)
BETSY DEVOS, in her official capacity as) ORDER ON PLAINTIFF STATE OF
Secretary of the United States Department of) WASHINGTON'S MOTION TO
Education; and the UNITED STATES) RECONSIDER THE OCTOBER 26,
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, a) 2020 MINUTE ORDER AND TO ENTER
federal agency) JUDGMENT FOR WASHINGTON
Defendants.)

Before the Court is the State of Washington’s Motion for Reconsideration, which asks the Court to reopen this matter, convert its previous preliminary injunction into a permanent injunction, and then reclose the matter. *See* Pl. State of Wash.’s Mot. to Recons. the Oct. 26, 2020 Min. Order and to Enter J. for Wash., Dkt. No. 66. On August 21, 2020, this Court granted the State the aforementioned preliminary injunction, enjoining Defendant the Department of Education from enforcing the Interim Final Rule, which purported to interpret provisions of the CARES Act regarding distribution of emergency relief funding between public and private elementary and secondary schools. Order Granting Mot. for Prelim. Inj., Dkt. No. 54 (“Prelim.

1 Inj. Order").¹ On September 4, 2020, the U.S. District Court of the District of Columbia granted
2 summary judgment to a different set of plaintiffs in a related case and permanently set aside the
3 Interim Final Rule, preventing the Department from enforcing it. *Nat'l Ass'n for Advancement of*
4 *Colored People v. DeVos*, No. 20-cv-1996, 2020 WL 5291406 (D.D.C. Sept. 4, 2020). When the
5 Department chose not to appeal this decision, this Court in a minute order held that the decision in
6 *NAACP* had "effectively enjoined the rule at issue in the case before this Court" and dismissed the
7 action. Min. Order of Oct. 26, 2020, Dkt. No. 65.

8 The State claims it requires a permanent injunction to guard against the possibility that the
9 Department may attempt to enforce the Interim Final Rule, notwithstanding the fact that the Rule
10 has been vacated. The Department represents that it has no intention of imposing the Interim Final
11 Rule's conditions, recognizing that the Rule is no longer enforceable. Defs.' Opp'n to Pls.' Mot.
12 to Recons., Dkt. No. 68. The Court hereby DENIES the State's Motion as it has shown no
13 likelihood that the Department will continue to enforce the Interim Final Rule. Should the
14 Department renege on this commitment, and attempt to enforce the now-defunct Rule, the State
15 may seek to reopen this matter at that time.
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17 SO ORDERED.
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19 DATED this 9th day of December, 2020.
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21 
22 BARBARA J. ROTHSTEIN
23 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
24

25 ¹ The Court recounted the underlying facts of this case in its previous Order. *See Prelim. Inj. Order* at 2–8. The Court here adopts all abbreviations and defined terms in that Order.